

Fed payouts to mortgage banks are a crime

Workers need bailout plan

By Jaimeson Champion

Desperate times call for desperate measures. The capitalist class and its state are getting increasingly desperate as they attempt to stave off a global collapse of the financial system.

On July 13 the U.S. Treasury Department and the U.S. Federal Reserve unveiled a hastily devised plan aimed at rescuing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the mortgage lending behemoths, from the brink of bankruptcy.

Combined, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac own or insure half of the more than \$12 trillion mortgage debt in the U.S. Bonds issued by Fannie and Freddie are held in massive quantities by governments and institutional investors around the globe.

The bailout plan is essentially a promise by the capitalist state to help finance Fannie and Freddie for the foreseeable future.

Officials from the Treasury and the Fed have been in constant contact with Wall Street in recent days in panicked attempts to persuade investors to stop dumping Fannie and Freddie stock and to continue purchasing bonds issued by the once-hallowed financial institutions.

The story of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac begins back in the Great Depression. In 1938 President Franklin Roosevelt initiated the creation of Fannie Mae as a public

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financial institution. Roosevelt's aim was to resuscitate the ailing Depression-era housing market by having the government back low-cost, fixed-rate mortgage loans. Fannie operated in this form until 1968.

That year, President Lyndon Johnson, who was growing increasingly worried about the escalating costs of the Vietnam War, pushed to have Fannie taken off the federal books. Johnson didn't like having to devote part of the budget to mortgages for working families; instead he preferred to spend it on imperialist war in Southeast Asia. From that point forward, Fannie became a quasi-private institution known as a Government Sponsored Entity.

GSEs are shareholder-owned companies, but they have the expressed backing of the capitalist government. GSEs are owned and operated like private companies

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Why Workers World is endorsing Cynthia McKinney for president

Workers World newspaper in the past has supported the candidates of Workers World Party running for national office in the U.S. presidential elections and who have put forward a revolutionary socialist program. This time we are taking the unusual step of endorsing the candidacy of Cynthia McKinney because these are unique times and this is a unique candidate.

McKinney, a courageous Black woman and former U.S. Congresswoman from Georgia, has become one of the most militant leaders and voices for the U.S. left, progressive and Black movements.

Because of her militancy in the struggle against the

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WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO



RACISM & U.S. ELECTIONS

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Two thousand people joined the Longest Walk 2 in Washington, D.C., on July 11. See page 4.

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Historic advance in struggle against racism

35,000 march to ‘Beat back Bakke!’

Workers World is in its 50th year of publication. We reprint this article from the April 21, 1978, issue of the paper as part of our special archival series.

By Jaime Veve

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15—In one of the most militant and massive demonstrations held anywhere in the United States since the civil rights struggle of the 1960s, over 35,000 people, the majority Black, Asian and Latin youth, came to Washington, D.C., today to voice their total opposition to the racist Bakke case now pending before the Nixon-packed U.S. Supreme Court.

Chanting “We won’t go back, send Bakke back,” the angry voices of thousands of youth from the oppressed communities demanding the overturn of the notorious Bakke decision, an end to racism and upholding of affirmative action programs were undoubtedly heard in the hallowed halls of the Supreme Court and the White House.

Three hours before the march was to begin, people were already arriving at the assembly site, reflecting the tremendous response among the oppressed youth to this demonstration against racism, called by the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision. Buses and carloads of demonstrators began arriving from places as distant as Detroit, Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, North Carolina, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Rochester and Newark.

Over 100 buses came from New York City, including 35 from the various campuses of the City University of New York. In no time, the Ellipse became a sea of people holding up hundreds of bright yellow banners and flags made by the NCOBD with slogans that proclaimed “Say no to racism, overturn the Bakke decision,” “Bakke—apartheid in jobs, housing, and education,” “Fight for education, overturn Bakke,” and “If Bakke wins, we all lose.”

At the assembly point, the crowd enthusiastically waved their flags in the air as Dennis Serrette, chairman of the New York NCOBD, and Belinda Lightfoot, co-coordinator of the Washington NCOBD, chaired the first rally, which heard from a number of individuals active in the struggle against racism and the Bakke decision. Some of the speakers represented were Alice Jennings, co-chairwoman of the Detroit NCOBD; Arthur Kinoy, progressive constitutional lawyer; Frank Schaefer-Corona, a member of the Washington, D.C., School Board; Odette King of the Asian Focus of the NCOBD; and Bernard Hughes, East Coast regional coordinator of the NCOBD.

Finally the march surged out of the gathering site led by a contingent from the Black community of Washington, D.C. The contingent was composed of students from local high schools and colleges, such as Howard University, and trade unions, especially the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and the American Federation of Government Employees, both of which have many Black members.

Chanting “We’re fired up, send Bakke back,” the marchers moved 10 to 15 abreast slowly down Pennsylvania Ave. in a massive procession covering over 20 city blocks with a continuous chorus of chants such as “Up with Soweto, down with Bakke,” “We say no, we say no, we say no to racism,” and “Reverse discrimination is a sham, affirmative action is our demand.”

As the marchers passed the offices of the reactionary Supreme Court, their angry voices rang in unison with the chant of “We’re gonna beat back the Bakke decision.” One could sense in the uninterrupted enthusiasm and

spontaneous chants of the demonstrators that they knew their protest marked a significant advance in the struggle against racism.

“We say no to racism, we say no to sexism, we say no to Bakke, we say no to Carter!” With these words Jimmy Garrett, co-chairperson of the Washington, D.C., NCOBD, greeted the marchers as they gathered at the steps of the Capitol where the final rally was held.

Hilda Mason of the Washington, D.C., City Council opened up the rally by voicing the feelings of everyone present at today’s historic march. “Today we are marching, we are marching for justice. We are marching to stop the oppression against minorities, against the denied, against the have-nots.”

Bill Simons, president of the Washington Teachers Union and secretary of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, denounced the Bakke decision as a racist offensive against affirmative action. He added, “We will continue to march until we get what we were promised—equality and justice for all.”

Antonio Rodriguez of CASA-General Brotherhood of Workers, a Mexican workers’ organization based in California, said, “There is no greater proof that the people make history, make social change, than today here in Washington, D.C. We say that affirmative action, we say that special admission programs are the only concrete ways toward those goals when they talk about equality in the abstract.”

Other speakers at the rally were Grantland Johnson from the NCOBD, Aimee Cruz of KDP, Digna Sanchez of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Betsy Gimbel of Disabled in Action, Reverend Bob Pruitt, Joe Malloy, a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers Union, and Claudette Furlonge of the Women’s Focus of the NCOBD.

‘A Turning Point in the Struggle’

Larry Holmes, New York City mobilizer of the NCOBD, received a tremendous cheer as he opened his remarks with the chant “Down with Bakke, up with Soweto.” He then went on to express the sentiments of all those participating in today’s demonstration when he said, “Today we have a meeting of organizers, a meeting of anti-racist activists. We have to be about continuing the struggle. Our presence here today is making history, making April 15 a turning point in the struggle to liberate the oppressed people.”

Today’s action was a revival of the spirit of struggle on the part of oppressed youth. This was reflected in the tremendous outpouring of people to today’s demonstration with a determination and militancy which have not been seen since the struggle of the 1960s which culminated in many gains, including affirmative action and special admissions programs.

This point was not lost on the powerful ruling circles behind the racist Bakke offensive, as evidenced by the boycott by the capitalist press of this significant event. The struggle against Bakke goes to the heart of the struggle against racism in this country, racism which is such a divisive weapon against the whole working class.

The tremendous success of April 15 was due to the fact that those most affected by the Bakke decision, the oppressed from the Black and Latin communities, did not boycott the event and instead came by the thousands to participate in a historic march which has contributed to moving the struggle against racism forward. □

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July 10 rally demands indictment of racist vigilante Joe Horn.

PHOTO: JON AXFORD

Houston, we have a problem!

Actions challenge criminal injustice system

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

The Harris County criminal justice system here has historically been racist and targeted the poor, with justice denied for untold generations. Within the last year, the struggle against this system has intensified to the point that ruling-class politicians have been challenged to examine its violent and racist practices.

Recently the federal Department of Justice did a five-day examination of the Harris County Jail, a massive complex of detention centers where more than 100 prisoners have been “found” dead.

A Houston Chronicle review of state and county records reveals that from January 2001 through December 2006, at least 101 inmates—an average of about 17 per year—have died while in the custody of the jail. In 2006 alone, after three consecutive years of failing to comply with state standards, the jail recorded 22 in-custody deaths.

At the times of their deaths, at least 72 of the inmates—more than 70 percent—were awaiting court hearings and had yet to be convicted of the crimes that led to their incarceration.

U.S. Congressperson John Conyers (D-Mich.), who heads the House Judiciary Committee, will hold a hearing at Houston City Hall in mid-July to take testimony from victims of Harris County injustice and from family members of those who did not survive.

Rally demands indictment of racist vigilante

On July 10, a week after vigilante Joe Horn was no-billed for killing two Afro-Colombians last November who he said he believed had broken into his neighbor’s home, a militant rally was held. Hundreds of outraged and energetic people gathered in front of the Harris County Courthouse to demand that Horn be

indicted for murder.

Horn is the Pasadena, Texas, man who made national news for shooting the two alleged burglars in the back. Despite a 911 operator telling Horn to stay inside his home, Horn was recorded telling the operator: “Well, here it goes, buddy. You hear the shotgun clicking and I’m going. Move and you’re dead.” The sound of him cocking his shotgun and then firing can be heard on the 911 recording.

A Harris County grand jury cleared Horn of all charges on June 30, enraging many in Houston’s African-American community as well as many others of all nationalities throughout the metropolitan Houston area.

At the rally, the speakers berated the racism that is systemic in Harris County’s criminal justice system and demanded that Horn’s shooting be taken before another grand jury, one representative of all the nationalities that make up Harris County.

Nation of Islam Minister Robert Mohammad outlined the five points that the Coalition for Justice, which organized the protest, had agreed upon. They were:

1. We oppose criminal activity in the streets of Harris County and in the suites of Harris County government.
 2. We call on the DA, Kenneth Madgison, to take Horn’s case before another grand jury with the same vigor used to indict Blacks, Latinos and the poor of all races.
 3. We want the racial makeup of the grand jury that no-billed Horn to be revealed and call for all grand juries to reflect the racial diversity of Harris County.
 4. We call for the immediate and unconditional resignation of Sheriff Tommy Thomas and his command staff.
 5. We call on local, county, state and national elected officials to endorse the request made by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee for an inquiry by the Department of Justice into the entire legal system of Harris County.
- Other speakers included attorney

Sadiyah Evangelista with the Millions More Movement; Marcario Ramirez, a long-time Chicano activist; a representative of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement; and Don Cook with the Harris County Green Party.

Minister Quannell X with the New Black Panther Nation introduced Stephanie Storey, the fiancée of one of Horn’s victims.

Kofi Taharka, chair of the National Black United Front, Houston chapter, asked the crowd to raise their hands if they planned to attend the next meeting of the Coalition for Justice on July 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center, 3815 Live Oak. Almost the entire crowd lifted their hands into the air and cheered.

Taharka stressed that this ongoing struggle for justice in Harris County was open to all. “This is not a Quannell X thing. This is not a Black thing. This is for ALL those who want to fight for justice!” he said. “Our community has allies in the Hispanic community and we need them. And we don’t hate all white people. We have some whites here today and they are working side by side with us. If we all work together, we can win!”

The day after the rally, the two Harris County jailers responsible for the Jan. 10 death of Clarence Freeman, a prisoner, were fired. Taharka said, “This is the beginning of justice for Freeman. The end will be when the jailers are charged and convicted of his murder.”

Cherry Bradley-Freeman, Freeman’s spouse, who had spoken at the rally, said the firings give her hope that the people responsible for her husband’s death will face justice. “I’m glad that they have come forward and admit what I already knew,” she said.

The firings came three days after the U.S. Department of Justice launched what was expected to be a five-day inspection of the downtown county jail facilities to determine whether they are operating under “lawful” conditions. □

Legal update on Mumia Abu-Jamal

On July 7, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia filed a petition on the case of death-row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Robert R. Bryan, lead counsel for Abu-Jamal, submitted the petition on June 27 focusing on the racist exclusion of Black jurors during Abu-Jamal’s original trial in 1982.

Abu-Jamal was convicted of first degree murder of a white police officer on July 3, 1982, and has been fighting for the right to a new trial to prove his innocence. He was denied the right to legal representation at his trial and was railroaded to Pennsylvania’s death row due to his revolutionary politics.

If the Third Circuit rules against the petition, the next appeal will be sent to the U.S. Supreme Court. Visit www.millions4mumia.org for more information.

—Monica Moorehead

From Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row

Saving bankers while home owners fail

Excerpts from a June 29 audio column. Go to prisonradio.org to hear Mumia’s commentaries and millions4mumia.org to get updates on his legal case and activities demanding a new trial.

Throughout the presidential primaries, while politicians amass millions from both corporate and private sources, how many times did you hear the sub-prime lending disaster discussed?

Over a million homeowners, most of them Black or Brown, faced foreclosure and the loss of their most valuable financial asset, and most politicians passed over it in relative silence, while they begged or lied for votes.

How can this be unless they, like most pols, were the paid-for property of corporations?

When the sub-prime mess hit, in a matter of hours, the Federal Reserve Board’s head, Ben Bernanke, slipped \$200 billion bucks in government guarantees to keep the mortgage loan industry afloat. Thus, the U.S. government used its power to back the banks’ hustling of what were essentially junk bonds.

A fifth of a trillion dollars to back those who ripped off a million people with loans designed to fail; and for those who got ripped off, nothing.

Indeed, the only politician who was attacking this practice was New York’s former Attorney General (and later Governor), Eliot Spitzer. But once he was caught in the hooker scandal, this threat melted slowly away.

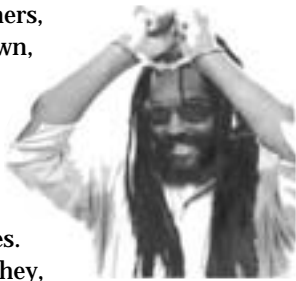
These sub-prime loans, saddled with balloon-like expanded repayment rates, were designed to fail, and these legalized hustles were steered at an astonishing rate—to 73 percent of high-income African-American and Hispanic families. Among white high-income homeowners, only 17 percent were recipients of subprimes.

This greed riot has sent shivers throughout the economy, not just in America, but overseas as well, because foreign companies and governments invested in these junk mortgage bonds.

The foreclosure crisis has slowed housing construction; loans are almost impossible to get; and the International Monetary Fund estimates banks and investors will lose some \$1 trillion.

But for nearly a million families their losses will be infinitely greater. They lose their dreams, their homes, and perhaps their families. How many divorces have they birthed by these foreclosures? How many families have been split asunder? How many suicides?

These non-economic losses can be traced to pure, unmitigated greed of bankers, investment houses, and the willing blindness of a government. □



Lucasville prisoner speaks on police roundup

Mosi Paki is one of the prisoners who has been in solitary confinement for the past 15 years for the uprising in the prison in Lucasville, Ohio, in 1993. He is the only one of the Lucasville uprising prisoners who did not receive a trial, but merely a ticket (rules violation) by the Rules Infraction Board. The following is an excerpt from Paki’s letter to a member of the Cleveland Lucasville 5 Defense Committee in response to news about police arrests of 90 youths in the area of East 116th Street and Buckeye Road in Cleveland.

We both know the system makes mass arrests to blame the victims, just to load up their prison/industrial complex for desired mass profits. For the supply of prisoners to grow, criminal justice policies must ensure a sufficient number of incarcerated poor, regardless of whether crime is rising or not.

Also, the poor are sent to prisons not so much because of crimes they may have or may not have committed, but largely because their communities have been criminalized. Mass arrests or other profiling by

corporate patrollers is based on race, class and mass profits per individuals incarcerated in the name of being “tough on crime,” as worded by the politrickers. ...

The E. 116th roundup they say was related to robberies in the Mount Pleasant area. I see many businesses have installed security cameras and are now hiring security personnel—off-duty cops [receiving] double pay for what tax dollars pay them to do on the clock. Wow, what a politricker brainstorm on people in that area. □

‘Longest Walk 2’ demands Native rights, respect of earth

By Johnnie Stevens and Sara Catalinotto

Two thousand people joined the Longest Walk 2 at the White House in Washington, D.C., on July 11. This mobilization marks the 30th anniversary of the original Longest Walk, when thousands of Native Americans converged on the Capitol to defeat eleven pieces of legislation that would have terminated Native American tribal rights.

LW2 began in San Francisco on Feb. 11, raising environmental injustice and global warming, protection of sacred sites, sovereignty, health concerns and cultural survival. The walk toured 8,000 miles, 26 states and 35 Indian nations. LW2 took two routes, northern and southern. The northern route was attacked by police while in Ohio last month. The southern route visited sites hit by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Indigenous people from North, South and Central America and the Pacific Islands, as well as people from South Africa, Europe, Australia and Asia, joined the walk. All generations were present, with youth visibly leading various aspects of the mobilization such as security and press work.

Delegations participated in Washington from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Black Left Unity, Katrina Rita Diaspora Solidarity Caravan, American Indian Community House of New York City, All African Peoples’ Revolutionary Party, D.C. Peoples’ Media Center, Black Talk Radio and WBAI.

After a militant rally led by Longest Walk veterans, including dances and songs, Dennis Banks, founder of American Indian Movement, thanked everyone for their help throughout the walk. Dennis repeated the slogan, “All life is sacred. Clean up mother earth,” referring to walkers who had picked up thousand of bags of trash along the route.

The crowd grew as the walk picked up tourists and D.C. workers. At the Capitol, LW2 held a press conference featuring Banks and delegations from each nation on the walk, artist/activist Harry Belafonte and House Judiciary Chairperson John Conyers.

Banks presented Rep. Conyers with a Manifesto of Change along with the original manifesto from the 1978 Longest Walk, which Congress had refused at the time. The LW2 manifesto is a collection of voices the organizers had heard from



PHOTO: LAURA AYERS

Longest Walk 2, July 11.

communities across Turtle Island.

One of the sixteen resolutions attached to the manifesto calls on the U.S. government to free Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier, whose frame-up was also an issue in the 1978 Longest Walk. The section titled “Ongoing Colonization of Mother Earth’s Sacred Places” addresses in detail the abuse of the land by military testing and by multinational corporations who take out uranium, coal, copper and trees from predominantly Native territory and leave behind contaminated water and nuclear waste dumps. Another section rejects “the occupiers’ borders imposed on this land,” as well as “NAFTA and other policies [which] force our people from their land.”

Rep. Conyers thanked all who had joined the walk, saying, “This is the first struggle—the Indian people.” He acknowledged that past treaties have always been

stepped on by the U.S. government. When Conyers said he would hold hearings on the LW2 manifesto in a full congressional session, the crowd erupted. Banks thanked Conyers, saying, “This is the first time that anyone from the U.S. Congress has acted on any Indian manifesto. This is already a victory!”

Banks then introduced Belafonte as one of Martin Luther King’s confidantes and a longtime friend of Indian people. Belafonte thanked Banks for inviting him to both Longest Walks, 1978 and 2008, and pledged to do all he can to support the LW2 manifesto.

LW2 continued July 12 at the Lincoln Monument with a Pow-Wow, welcoming all who were a part of the walk to join in a victory dance. Organizers ask that supporters stay in touch with their website (www.longestwalk.org) as the walkers return to their homes. □

Reproductive rights under further attack

By Kris Hamel

In Margaret Atwood’s 1985 novel, “The Handmaid’s Tale,” the lives of women and their reproductive capacity are controlled by a totalitarian, theocratic and male-dominated state. In the Republic of Gilead, women are not allowed to read or be educated, and they are classified by their subordinate role to men and procreation. Handmaids are fertile women who have been rehabilitated after breaking strict social and gender laws. Their function in society is to be impregnated and bear children for wives, the spouses of the ruling male commanders. Lesbian, gay, bi and trans people and women of color are among the very lowest social castes.

While Atwood’s dystopian future is the fruit of the author’s imagination, has the ruling class here already begun implementing a terrifying version of Gilead when it comes to women’s reproductive capacities and roles in class society?

On June 27, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a 2005 district court injunction, ordering South Dakota to start enforcing its “informed consent” law. This benign-sounding law is anything but. It will force physicians to issue a state-mandated written statement to women seeking abortions that the procedure will “terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique living human being.” It states a woman has an “existing relationship with that unborn human being and that the relationship enjoys protection” under the law and that abortion will terminate such a relationship. It requires the statement to include unproven “facts” that abortion causes depression and suicide among women.

Sarah Stoesz, the CEO of Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, called the court’s opinion “unprecedented in scope and unmatched in its intrusion on First Amendment rights.” She stated further, “Planned Parenthood challenged the 2005 law because it violated the constitutional rights of doctors and patients by forcing doctors to give ideologically charged, non-scientific and inaccurate messages to their

patients.” (Star Tribune, July 1)

South Dakota already has some of the most restrictive laws on abortion in the country, as well as a low rate of abortion among pregnant women. There is but one clinic providing abortions in the entire state.

The same forces behind the “informed consent” law were the ones who passed a law in 2006 outlawing all abortions in the state. That draconian legislation was overturned by a vote of the people in November of that year. Now, another measure will appear on this year’s ballot that will criminalize all abortions except in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest or which may endanger a woman’s health. The rules regarding these exceptions will be difficult for women to comply with and require extreme intrusion by the state.

Another blow to First Amendment rights was dealt by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California on July 2. The court gave the go-ahead for an anti-choice group to drive a truck with giant photos of supposed aborted fetuses around the streets near middle and high schools. A panel of “liberal” judges ruled

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Pilots protest DHL’s job cuts

Members of the Air Lines Pilots Association crashed DHL’s All-Star FanFest baseball show at New York City’s Jacob Javits Convention Center on July 14 and 15. They traveled from Wilmington, Ohio, to protest DHL’s plans to cut 10,000 jobs.

ALPA members distributed a colorful brochure that tells the truth: “DHL is now proposing to give all of its North American air cargo to UPS—one of its biggest competitors. This agreement, if put into effect, will eliminate over 10,000 jobs in Ohio and effectively close down ASTAR [formerly DHL Airways].” The giving away of DHL’s air cargo to UPS also violates anti-trust laws.

This job-cutting scheme was announced just three months after ALPA members at ASTAR signed a new contract with job

security commitments. DHL, which owns 49 percent of ASTAR, endorsed these commitments and never mentioned any negotiations with UPS.

The stream of DHL workers driving trucks to a nearby facility eagerly accepted the ALPA brochures. DHL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Post World Net, whose revenues exceeded 63 billion euros last year.

Among the supporters who came out to the picket line was Daniel Vila, an organizer with the American Postal Workers Union who’s organizing DHL workers in Allentown, Pa., and Johnnie Stevens from the Katrina Rita Diaspora Solidarity Caravan.

—Stephen Millies
Member, Transportation
Communications Union, Local 1402



WW PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

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■ TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

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- Effects on People of California
- How is the Economy Worsening the Crisis
- Legal Advice to Protect Yourself
- Building a Fight Back Campaign to Stop Foreclosures

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Failing banks line up for gov’t handouts

By Milt Neidenberg

Panic is spreading among Wall Street investors. Have their dreams of an everlasting, profit-driven capitalist economy à la Goldilocks—not too hot, not too cold, just right—become a nightmare?

After having reached dizzying heights of optimism, the transnational banking empires, financial satellites and corporate boardrooms—which have gathered riches beyond belief at the expense of the multinational working class and oppressed nationalities—are now gripped by fear.

“Many investors are on edge after federal regulators seized the California lender, IndyMac Bank, one of the nation’s largest savings and loans, last week. With \$32 billion in assets, IndyMac, a spin-off of the Countrywide Financial Corporation, was the biggest American lender to fail in more than two decades.” (New York Times, July 13)

IndyMac, the giant mortgage lender, had gone bankrupt and was bought at a fire sale by the Bank of America.

The article continued: “Time may be running out for some small and mid-size lenders ... but the troubles are growing so rapidly at some small and mid-size banks that as many as 150 out of the 7,500 banks nationwide could fail over the next 12 to 18 months, analysts say. Other lenders are likely to shut branches or seek mergers.”

Many more banks are on the hit list as the credit/debt crunch deepens. They are holding fictitious capital—like collateralized debt obligations, structured investment vehicles, hedge funds, derivatives and other incomprehensible financial instruments that are becoming nearly worthless paper.

Larger institutions will present financial reports in the third week of July and multi-billion-dollar write-offs are expected. The stocks of investment banks like Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Morgan

Stanley and Goldman Sachs were battered following the run on IndyMac. National City Bank stopped trading after its stock plunged 20 percent, but started up later in the day. “Washington Mutual fell 27 percent, Wachovia dropped 12 percent. M&T Bank, which reported a 25 percent drop in its second-quarter earnings early Monday, fell 15 percent.” (Wall Street Journal, July 14)

Banks—large and small—feed the arteries of the capitalist state. Is their accelerating meltdown leading to a government bailout for which the worker/taxpayer will have to pick up the tab?

That’s what happened when Bear Stearns, the fourth-largest investment bank, went belly-up in March. The Federal Reserve Bank and the Treasury cranked out \$31 billion, accepting subprime mortgage paper and other debt as collateral so JPMorgan Chase could buy Bear Stearns for peanuts.

Public money down the rathole

Can the U.S. government assume the humongous private sector debt incurred by a period of hyper-speculation, inflation and economic stagnation? The government is already burdened with a \$9.5 trillion public debt, thanks primarily to debt service owed the banks and borrowing for costly imperialist wars and other military spending.

This is only a portion of the public debt. The government has already robbed \$12.8 trillion from the Social Security Trust Fund and replaced it with IOUs. The combined total is therefore \$23 trillion. It is growing daily by \$1.72 billion. The debt has reached a staggering 160 percent of the \$13.9 trillion U.S. gross domestic product—the total annual value of all goods and services. (National Debt Clock)

The government debt is concealed in a general fund, which is the recipient of all tax monies. The fund is guaranteed to

cover two major areas before any other disbursements are made. What do they consider the top priorities? All interest payments must be made to the banks and all military expenditures must be covered. If anything is left over, maybe the government will meet some of its obligations to the people whose taxes keep it going.

Bank bailouts involve considerable risk for the government. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which guarantees investors/depositors up to \$100,000, has \$53 billion set aside for this purpose. IndyMac alone will eat up at least \$4 to \$8 billion of that fund. The Federal Reserve has nearly \$600 billion of debt on its books, based primarily on the global mortgage collapse. And under its legal statutes and obligations, it must provide funds to the government.

Printing money is one path to salvation but it debases the currency, causing hyper-inflation and driving down the value of the dollar in the global market. Letting banks and other capitalist entities fail is another path. That is also happening now.

These are dangerous times for the multinational working class and the oppressed nationalities. Even the 15 million union members are victims of stagflation and the vicious boom-and-bust cycles endemic to the capitalist system.

The bankers and the banking system itself are a leading cause of this capitalist crisis, responsible for the significant rise in hyper-speculation. No large-scale speculation in stocks, bonds and commodities like oil can take place without the banks. The banks supply the loans for speculation and accept all kinds of stocks and mortgages as collateral.

Déjà vu all over again?

The banks were the fundamental agent of the hyper-speculation that preceded the 1929 crash and the devastating economic

collapse that followed. The banking crisis, which first developed during the “roaring twenties,” was cataclysmic. The banks were falling like trees in a tornado.

The first act of Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt when he took office as president on March 4, 1933, was to proclaim a “bank holiday.” He shut down the entire banking system for four days—an unprecedented act that literally stopped the daily functioning of the capitalist system. Thus he began his dramatic restructuring of capitalism to save the system. And save capitalism he did.

The banking system is in crisis and is demanding the government put out the money to rescue the banks. Facing huge budget deficits in coming fiscal years, the government, whether led by Democrats or Republicans, will cut social programs to the bone—while health care is denied, jobs disappear, pensions are wiped out, and food and energy costs rise at an astronomical rate.

The prospects are for the capitalist crisis to grow deeper and more profound. It will propel the exploited and the downtrodden masses into struggle and has the potential to unleash worldwide revolutionary forces.

This is a profit-driven class system that enshrines the private ownership of the means of production. Yet it has developed these same productive forces to such a vast extent that they have outgrown the limitations of private ownership and become social in character.

The scientific-technological revolution has brought the means of production to such a level of development that they could feed, clothe, house and provide joyful lives for all of humankind. But a new system that socializes the ownership of the means of production must replace capitalism before they can be in synch with human needs. That system is socialism and it is objectively within reach. □

Workers need bailout plan

Continued from page 1

but are promised public funds if they should ever get into financial trouble. Freddie Mac was established in 1970 to operate as a sibling company to Fannie Mae.

Since decoupling from the federal books in 1968, Fannie and Freddie have taken on an ever-increasing role in the U.S. housing market. The two companies have moved steadily away from Fannie’s once chartered role of providing low-cost, fixed-rate mortgages. They have increasingly assumed the role of massive banks for the vast network of financial institutions involved in the U.S. housing market.

Fannie and Freddie facilitate lending in the U.S. housing market by issuing bonds to investors and then using the money from the bond sales to buy blocs of mortgages from banks. In this way, they grease the wheels of lending in the United States by taking illiquid assets off the banks’ hands and pumping money capital into the system.

During the housing bubble of 2002-2006 Fannie and Freddie grew astronomically as they became the two largest players in the unprecedented housing market boom. The ability of Fannie and Freddie to purchase massive blocs of mortgage loans from the banks helped set the stage for the proliferation of a host of dubious mortgages with untenable rates. The ability of mortgage holders to pay their mortgages was no longer important to many lenders, as they knew they could easily, and quickly, sell the loan to a larger institution.

Fannie and Freddie raked in massive

profits for their shareholders during the bubble years, but, like seemingly every other financial institution, insatiable greed led them to become increasingly leveraged and loaded down with fictitious capital.

Around the globe, banks—the heartbeat and lifeblood of modern monopoly capitalism—are steadily becoming insolvent. Banks of all shapes and sizes are going belly up.

From investment banks like Bear Stearns, to commercial lenders like IndyMac and Northern Rock, and now to the GSEs like Fannie and Freddie, it has been one bank-run after another. There is no end in sight as the largest housing market collapse since the Great Depression continues to drag a multitude of large financial institutions to the brink.

Capitalism: exploitative, crisis-prone and not worth saving

As with the Bear Stearns collapse in March, the capitalist-controlled media have been pumping out the message that the bailout of Fannie and Freddie is necessary because the institutions are “too big to fail.” The refrain goes that if Fannie and Freddie go down, the systemic damage their collapse would unleash would cause even greater economic suffering.

How many companies need to be bailed out with public money before it becomes clear that this rotten, exploitative and crisis-prone economic system is not worth saving? The capitalist bankers and bosses have run their ships into the

ground. Why should the workers, whom they daily oppress, be forced to provide them with lifeboats?

In any bailout of Fannie and Freddie, the money should go directly to workers who have faced or are facing foreclosure, or the workers who have suffered when their pensions and retirement savings were invested in these companies. But the capitalist state would never truly get behind that kind of a rescue plan. The state’s only loyalty is to the capitalist class.

It is painfully clear that the growth and expansion of free markets, which took place in the wake of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, have been an unmitigated disaster for workers and oppressed around the globe.

In the past two decades, proponents of free-market economics have denounced socialism as inefficient and utopian. They claimed that the growth of “democracy and free markets” would bring about a post-Cold-War era of global prosperity.

Yet with the global financial system on the precipice of collapse, millions of workers forced from their homes by foreclosure, skyrocketing energy prices and nearly 1 billion people going hungry every year, the idea that “democracy and free markets” will bring about an era of global prosperity seems ridiculously utopian.

Capitalism is clearly failing, but what is the alternative? The answer lies in the development of working class consciousness and the renewed struggle for socialism.

Karl Marx wrote that the capitalist state is set up to manage the common affairs of the capitalist class. This fact is evident today as Republicans and Democrats hastily put aside their manufactured election year differences in order to legislate

the bailout plans being concocted by the Treasury and the Fed.

The working class, long subject to the divisive prejudices deliberately sown among us by the ruling class, must unite in our own common class interest and take the offensive against the capitalist class.

Private ownership of the means of production is at the root of this deepening economic crisis. The abolition of private property and the development of socialism can provide the way out of this crisis, and ensure that the kind of economic suffering this crisis has wrought never occurs again.

While the abolition of private property sounds like a daunting task, the reality is that the ruling class has already laid the foundations for its own demise.

By organizing billions of workers into a vast productive network, where everything from the extraction of raw materials to the sale of the final commodity is linked, the ruling class has already socialized the productive capacity of society. An organized army of workers already has the reins to the productive apparatus.

In this period of extreme economic crisis, the capitalist class would find itself in even bigger trouble in the face of concerted and well-organized strikes, walkouts, plant takeovers and militant resistance to the banks that are seizing our homes. A united working class could quickly bring the vast machinations of global capitalism to a screeching halt.

In the coming period, which will be marked by ever-increasing economic instability, it is incumbent upon the entire revolutionary left to do everything possible to help foster militant working-class solidarity and to renew and reenergize the global class struggle. There is a world to win. □

Afghan resistance grows in response to U.S. war crimes

By Deirdre Griswold

Having rendered much of the country of Iraq virtually uninhabitable, the destructive forces of U.S. imperialism are now being focused more intensely on Afghanistan and Iran.

The pressure against Iran is still in the threat stage, but Afghanistan has been suffering terrible devastation delivered by high-tech weaponry against small villages. The attacks by the U.S./NATO forces are now spilling over into the border areas of neighboring Pakistan. The most atrocious acts of aggression are being committed against rural people in the name of fighting “terror”—a formulation that could have come right from Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels.

The corporate media are virtually silent on the immense suffering being inflicted on the Afghans. It is only when U.S. troops are killed there that the war in Afghanistan makes it into the headlines here—as happened in mid-July, when nine U.S. soldiers were killed in eastern Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border.

Until now, the war in Afghanistan has been one in which the forces of resistance to foreign intervention have not been strong enough to take on frontally the U.S. and NATO troops. These intruders are armed to the teeth with high-powered weapons, night-vision equipment, satellite communications and guidance systems, and death-dealing aircraft that they call in to launch missiles or bombs whenever the forces on the ground feel threatened.

The resistance, on the other hand, has relied mainly on “suicide bombers”—that is, individuals so motivated that they knowingly sacrifice their lives in order to

inflict casualties on the occupiers and the puppet forces allied with them.

The latest attack, however, was different.

It was, according to the U.S. military, a coordinated assault by some 200 “Taliban” and their supporters on a recently built U.S./NATO base in Kunar province, near Pakistan. The insurgents actually penetrated the base, killing the soldiers and wounding 19 more, 15 U.S. and four from the so-called Afghan army.

According to Western accounts, the insurgents had covertly occupied the hamlet of Wanat next to the base, first sending the inhabitants to other towns, and then launched their attack from there. The battle lasted for hours. They were repulsed only after the base called in strikes from U.S. warplanes, attack helicopters and long-range artillery.

“American ground commanders immediately called in artillery and airstrikes from a B-1 bomber, as well as A-10 and F-15E attack planes. Apache helicopter gunships and a remotely piloted Predator aircraft fired Hellfire missiles at the insurgents, military officials said.” (New York Times, July 15)

The daring shown by the resistance fighters in actually attacking a U.S. base must have shaken up not only local U.S. commanders but the top brass back at the Pentagon. However, what makes this battle a much bigger nightmare for them is that it proves conclusively that the people of Afghanistan are overwhelmingly with the resistance and opposed to the Western occupiers.

Some time ago, it was first mentioned in the corporate media that Hamid Karzai, the Afghan hand-picked by Washington to become the U.S. puppet president of

Afghanistan, was derisively known in his country as “the mayor of Kabul,” meaning that his influence extends no further than the privileged enclaves set up for him and his apparatus in the capital city.

This contempt among the people for those selected by the invaders to rule over them has only deepened as the pain and suffering caused by this war have spread.

Tamim Nuristani, the former governor of Kunar province, “said some local people might have joined the militants since a group of civilians were killed in American airstrikes on July 4 in the same area. ‘This made the people angry,’ he said. ‘It was the same area. The airstrikes happened maybe one kilometer away from the base.’

“Mr. Nuristani strongly criticized those airstrikes, saying that 22 civilians had been killed. ... Days after his comments, Mr. Nuristani was removed from his post.” (Times)

In May and June, some 69 U.S. and NATO soldiers were killed in Afghanistan, making it the deadliest month since the war began and higher than the casualties the U.S. “coalition” sustained in Iraq.

What do they want from Afghanistan?

What makes the U.S. military and the politicians of both capitalist parties think that, by sending more troops there, they can subdue Afghanistan, whose fierce resistance to Western domination has been recognized ever since the British tried to conquer them in the mid-19th century and finally left with their tails between their legs?

The rhetoric coming from the U.S. government and foreign policy establishment explains this huge military operation in

ideological terms—a “war on terror.” This phrase has been wearing thin for a long time with the U.S. public, as it has been used to justify the most atrocious war crimes and assaults on human rights.

There is a much more plausible reason. Those who cannot entertain the notion that the U.S. world empire is declining and who feel that military force is justified see Afghanistan as occupying a key location.

It is near the oil-rich Middle East and Iran. Near former Soviet republics that also are rich in natural resources to exploit. Near the South Asian subcontinent, where hundreds of millions of impoverished people in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and other countries may take their destiny into their own hands. And near the People’s Republic of China, which has become a dynamo of economic development and is therefore seen as more and more of a challenge and a competitor by the corporate ruling class in the U.S.

In other words, Afghanistan has enormous “geostrategic” value to the imperialists, in addition to its own exploitable resources.

None of this will help the working people of the U.S. in their struggle for jobs, decent wages and conditions, or social justice. On the contrary, opposing imperialism’s dirty wars everywhere will elevate the struggle at home against the evils right here.

Former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, now running for president on several independent tickets, recognized this when she said recently about her congressional record: “I consistently opposed every regular and supplemental appropriation meant to fund the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

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Army court-martials resister for blowing whistle on ‘bait & kill’

By Dee Knight

Private First Class James Burmeister faces a Special Court Martial at Fort Knox on July 16. The charges are AWOL and desertion. He returned to Fort Knox voluntarily in March, after living 10 months in Canada with his spouse and infant child. He refused redeployment to Iraq while on leave in May 2007.

In most such cases at Fort Knox, the Army has in recent years quietly dismissed the resister with a less than honorable discharge “for the good of the military.” This time it’s different. The brass “offered” Burmeister a year in military prison and a dishonorable discharge if he agreed to plead guilty.

Burmeister refused the offer. His father, Erich, says the Army is making an example of James for denouncing a secret “bait-and-kill” program he was forced to participate in while in Iraq. In media interviews last year in Canada, James described the program as a war crime he was forced to commit. Shortly afterward, the program’s details came out in the Washington Post.

“Baiting is putting an object out there that we know they will use, with the intention of destroying the enemy,” the Post quoted Capt. Matthew Didier, leader of an elite sniper scout platoon. “We would put an item out there and watch it. If someone found the item, picked it up and attempted to leave with the item, we would engage the individual.”

The Post reported that “Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of



PFC James Burmeister exposed the Army’s “bait-and-kill” program, and is now being punished for it.

Military Justice, said such a baiting program ... raises troubling possibilities, such as what happens when civilians pick up the items. ... ‘You might as well ask every Iraqi to walk around with a target on his back,’ Fidell said.” (Sept. 24, 2007)

James had asked to be classified as a conscientious objector following his training in Germany, but his request was ignored by his commander. Instead, he became a machine gunner. “Our unit’s job seemed to be more about targeting a largely innocent civilian population or deliberately attracting confrontation,” he wrote in his deposition seeking asylum in Canada. “These citizens were almost always unarmed. In some cases the Iraqi victims looked to me like they were chil-

dren.” (Eugene Weekly, May 22)

In Iraq, Burmeister had been knocked unconscious and his face filled with shrapnel when his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb. The shrapnel wounds left him with a traumatic brain injury, and he suffers from severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. His parents insist that he urgently needs medical and psychological help, not jail time.

His parents have waged an unceasing struggle for the Army to release him. They called on their representative, Peter DeFazio, to launch a congressional inquiry into James’s case, but have so far heard nothing. James’ mother, Helen Burmeister, flew to Fort Knox in June, with help from anti-war ex-Colonel Ann Wright. Helen spoke directly to the base commander there, demanding that her son be discharged in lieu of a court martial. She then joined supporters from Veterans for Peace and Vietnam Vets Against the War demonstrating outside.

On July 8 the Army invited Helen to attend her son’s court martial on July 16. This time both she and her husband Erich are going. They’re determined to keep James out of jail. “I bought a one-way ticket,” Erich told Workers World. “I’m not leaving without my son. If I have to sit outside the base and wait for him, I’ll do it. Even if I have to go on a hunger strike, that’s what I’ll do. My son does not deserve another day in jail.”

In an interview with Courage to Resist, Erich said: “[James] struggles with PTSD, yet he is quartered within earshot of the shooting range and tank training area,

daily hearing the gunfire and explosions. He has been prescribed a dangerous cocktail of anti-psychotic drugs and sleep aids by Army doctors, while the command decides if they want to send him to prison, as a coward, a soldier who faced death, and followed orders to ‘shoot to kill.’ The cowards—George Bush and Dick Cheney, those in Congress and the generals with the blood on their hands—why are they the punishers instead of the punished?” (couragetoresist.org, May 12)

Supporters can contact the Fort Knox post commander, General Campbell, to demand a speedy discharge and no further punishment for James. Send email to knox.pao@conus.army.mil, or call the Fort Knox public affairs office at 502-624-7451. Ask that they discharge PFC James Burmeister now so that he can get the help that he needs. □

Canadian govern

Special to Workers World

The minority Conservative government of Canada moved July 15 to deport 25-year-old U.S. war resister Robin Long, who would not fight in Iraq. Despite polls showing that 64 percent of Canadians want to grant sanctuary to Iraq War resisters and the passage of a parliamentary motion that would allow them to immigrate to Canada, the Federal Court of Canada dismissed a last-ditch attempt

Continued on page 7

Anti-war group calls actions as U.S. & Israel prepare for attack on Iran

By Dustin Langley

President George W. Bush has given the Israeli military the go-ahead to prepare for an imminent attack on Iran. Israel is also using U.S. bases in Iraq to prepare for the attack.

The British Sunday Times of July 13 reported: “Despite the opposition of his own generals and widespread skepticism that America is ready to risk the military, political and economic consequences of an airborne strike on Iran, the president has given an ‘amber light’ to an Israeli plan to attack Iran’s main nuclear sites with long-range bombing sorties, [a Pentagon] official told The Sunday Times.

“‘Amber means get on with your preparations, stand by for immediate attack and tell us when you’re ready,’ the official said. But the Israelis have also been told that they can expect no help from American forces and will not be able to use U.S. military bases in Iraq for logistical support.”

No U.S. support? The Jerusalem Post reported on the same day: “On Friday, sources in the Iraqi Defense Ministry told a local news network that IAF [Israeli Air Force] war planes were practicing in Iraqi airspace and were landing on U.S.

airbases in the country as a preparation for a potential strike on Iran.”

Once again the most powerful forces of U.S. corporate power—the military-industrial-petroleum complex—are using Israel as their proxy to threaten war on surrounding countries in the region. Israel is armed, financed and politically and diplomatically supported by Washington. It cannot act on its own or without explicit permission from Washington.

At the same time that the White House is giving the Zionist military a go-ahead to bomb Iran, the U.S. Congress is moving ahead to escalate tensions in the region and possibly provoke an incident that would “justify” U.S. military action. House Resolution 362 and Senate Resolution 580 both require that the president begin a blockade of Iran.

The House resolution “demands” that the president impose “stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains and cargo entering or departing Iran.” Enforcing this would require a U.S. naval blockade of the Straits of Hormuz, which is an act of war according to international law. Approximately one-fourth of the world’s oil, including that from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, passes through the

Straits of Hormuz, which are 21 miles wide at their narrowest point.

These two resolutions have received widespread bipartisan support from members of both houses of Congress, and are expected to pass without debate or vote. A staffer in Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office said that once the House resolution hits the floor, it will “pass like a hot knife through butter.” Some have speculated that the bill will be put on the floor “under suspension”—meaning it will pass without even a vote.

Both resolutions accuse Iran of developing nuclear weapons, despite the fact that Washington’s National Intelligence Estimate report last December made it clear that every major U.S. intelligence agency believes Iran does not have a nuclear weapons program.

Nor do the resolutions refer to the real nuclear threat in the region: the U.S., the only country that has used nuclear weapons and currently has a massive nuclear-armed naval armada in the region. It also does not mention the apartheid settler state of Israel, which is thought to have at least 200 nuclear weapons.

At the same time, two leading senators announced on July 15 that they had reached a bipartisan agreement to expand economic sanctions targeting Iran. Senators Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.), chair of the Senate Banking Committee, and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) called Iran “a threat to U.S. interests.” Dodd, a former candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for president, said: “This bipartisan bill strengthens economic sanctions against Iran, and authorizes divestment from companies that do business with Iran’s key oil sector.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. is involved in “covert operations”—acts of terrorism—inside Iran. In the July 7 New Yorker, Seymour Hersh revealed that Congress has approved \$400 million to fund covert operations in

Iran. These operations include providing support to armed groups opposed to the Iranian government, kidnapping members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and taking them across the border to Iraq for interrogation, the manipulation of Iran’s currency, and other acts intended to destabilize the regime.

Hersh reports that these types of operations have been ongoing at least since last year, but the recent congressional appropriation signals a significant expansion of these actions.

It is clear that the Bush administration is determined to push forward with its agenda of endless war to control the oil reserves of the Middle East. It is equally clear that members of Congress—both Democrats and Republicans—are on board, just as they collaborated in authorizing the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

It is imperative that progressive activists and organizations, particularly in the U.S., mobilize to stop another brutal war and demand an end to the illegal sanctions and covert operations targeting Iran.

Stop War on Iran, an international grassroots campaign, has issued an Emergency Call for protests, marches and other actions on the weekend of Aug. 2. Local organizers are planning events in more than 50 cities, including Los Angeles, Tucson, San Diego, San Francisco, Denver, Atlanta, Chicago, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, Minneapolis, Jersey City, Albuquerque, Buffalo, New York, Charlotte, Raleigh/Durham, Cleveland, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Houston, Salt Lake City, Virginia Beach, Washington and more. An updated list is available at www.StopWarOnIran.org.

Now is the time to take to the streets. Only a massive grassroots mobilization can stop another bloody and illegal war. To get involved, or for more information, see www.StopWarOnIran.org. □

NOT ANOTHER WAR! NOT ANOTHER WAR! NOT ANOTHER WAR! NOT ANOTHER WAR!

An Emergency Call to Action

STOP WAR on IRAN



- An Attack could be Imminent
- We Can’t Afford to Wait
- Take It to the Streets This Summer
- U.S. Out of Iraq, Money for human needs, not war!

Actions in 50 cities

To Endorse, list your local action, or to find out how to get involved:

- go to www.StopWarOnIran.org
- call 212-633-6646
- or drop by the Solidarity Center
55 W. 17th St. 5th Fl. NY NY 10011

Actions in Times Square in NYC

- Los Angeles ● San Francisco
- Boston & several other cities in New England, multiple cities in
- N. Carolina ● Colorado ● Ohio
- Oklahoma ● Montana ● Michigan
- Louisiana ● Arizona ● Indiana
- Florida and many other states.

To list your local action or find more information go to www.StopWarOnIran.org

Volunteers urgently needed!

Czechs protest Rice visit over radar base treaty

By John Catalinotto

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s idea of the Czech Republic’s “moving to democracy” is for the rightist Czech regime to sign a treaty allowing U.S. radar bases that 70 percent of the Czech population reject and for Czech troops to follow the U.S. lead in occupying countries all over the world.

The Czech people disagree. When Rice was in Prague July 8 to sign the treaty, people were out in the street protesting her visit. The Czech parliament has not yet approved the treaty, and Communist Party and most Social Democratic members of the parliamentary opposition have pledged to vote against it. Even some Green Party members, who are in the government coalition, oppose the treaty.

The radar base is part of a U.S. weapons system that includes interceptor missiles to be located in neighboring Poland, where the population also opposes the bases and where the rightist government is demanding billions in military aid before signing on. The U.S. claims the task of the missile system is to intercept nuclear missiles from Iran aimed at Europe. The Russian government has called the bases a threat to Russia.

The Communist Youth Union (KSM), which has been actively campaigning against the bases, was one of the groups mobilizing July 8 against Rice’s visit. The rightist Czech government has been using repressive measures to try to ban the KSM, but the young communists are fighting not only to stay in existence but also in anti-imperialist action.

According to a July 15 KSM statement, signing the treaty contradicts “the opinion of the majority of the people in Czech Republic and is a clear expression of the fully pro-imperialist policy of the government of the Czech Republic.” The KSM sees the base as developing “the domination of the U.S. imperialism not only in Middle Europe but ... far to the east.”

“The petition against the placement of the U.S. military base in Czech Republic launched by the KSM has been signed by more than 180,000 people so far,” the KSM statement continues.

“The Communist Youth Union together with other progressive and democratic organizations expressed its clear ‘No’ to all these steps of the state pro-imperialist policy including the presence of the Czech troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, in the Balkans and possibly in African Chad.” □

Government deports U.S. war resister

to delay the deportation process.

“I was just shocked at [the] ruling,” said Bob Ages of the Vancouver War Resisters Support Campaign. “It just flies in the face of everything that we and every Canadian know.” (Globe and Mail, July 15) He said the court misunderstood the situation facing Long. “I do not think there is any doubt someone being up in Canada, and a vocal opponent to the war, will be treated harshly by the American military. ... There is no question he will be court-martialed and will receive severe punishment.”

Long is expected to be imprisoned at Fort Knox, the same base where PFC James Burmeister faces court martial this week (see accompanying article).

“This is a gift from [Canadian Prime Minister] Stephen Harper to George Bush,” said Gerry Condon of Project Safe Haven. “And it is a gift to the headline writers, who will trumpet that Canada is no longer a safe haven for AWOL GIs.

“But it is an illusion,” he added, “because this is not the first of many deportations.

Continued on page 8

Proud to be an 'American'?

Behind the attacks on Michelle Obama

By Dolores Cox

Recently, mainstream corporate media pounced all over Michelle Obama when she stated that for the first time in her adult lifetime she’s really proud of her country. They voiced their outrage and indignation. They were insulted.

How dare she be so un-American, un-patriotic, they responded from their privileged perches. What an ingrate, they insinuated. How dare she cast aspersions on the integrity and character of this country, past or present. And how dare she infer that this has not been a country that every U.S. citizen can be proud of.

It seems we’ve gone from my country right or wrong, to my country can do no wrong. Truth telling and honesty have long been frowned upon. And any messenger of truth is disparaged or even assassinated, physically and verbally. That’s how we roll here in “America the beautiful.”

The media felt Michelle Obama was attacking U.S. culture, morality, ethics and values. They practically suggested that we all should be wearing a flag pin as we pledge allegiance with our hand over our heart and chest swelling while we recite the immortal words, “with liberty and justice for all.” And let’s not forget the other declarations that “all men are created equal”; that they are “endowed with certain inalienable rights”; among them “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” And of course, “we hold these truths to be self-evident.”

But evident to whom? Aren’t these words more myth than reality? Hasn’t experience shown us that some “men” are presumed to be more equal than others, not to mention women?

Uncovering the myths

In this so-called great “American” democracy, victims and targets of racial hatred are stigmatized and vilified by virtue of their birth and heritage. At the same time, victimizers and perpetrators of

this racial hatred and violence have been praised, celebrated, made heroes, respected and held in high esteem. Notably, there has never been any collective shame for the evil deeds of the evil doers. That’s the real “American” way. Exploitation and oppression remain the name of the game and order of the day.

One’s skin color has always been a strong determinant of one’s social and economic status; being a person of color means being kept at the bottom of society or “in one’s place.” Although the back-breaking and killing free labor of African slaves has contributed in large part to making this country the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, the descendants of these slaves have been deliberately and systematically—by all means imaginable—kept from benefiting from the fruits of their ancestors’ labor.

This has resulted in centuries of deprivation and exclusion. Descendents of the perpetrators of slavery continue to be privileged, to benefit and prosper, refusing to acknowledge the extent of racism now and ignoring the past.

In this country, the term “minority” is often a code name for “inferior or less than,” regardless of numerical count. Black people and other so-called minorities have always had to fight for their civil and human rights as citizens by birth or naturalized, whether here for generations or newly arrived. They are denied basic essentials of life—the rights and privileges accorded to whites in general at birth under class society.

White U.S. citizens, for the most part, have historically been desensitized and indifferent to the suffering, degradation and dehumanization of Black men, women and children, in particular, and to persons of color in general. Much sense of responsibility is absent and eliminated from public consciousness; that is convenient amnesia. Unresolved issues remain dormant.

It’s always been fashionable and acceptable to discriminate and express one’s

hatred toward people of color. This dates back to the arrival of the first Europeans and their refusal to peacefully co-exist with the indigenous Native Americans. Their value as human beings was (and remains) dispensable, so they were wiped out or confined to reservations.

And during the hundreds of years of the U.S.’s horrendous legacy of slavery, followed by 100 years of Jim Crow (legalized apartheid), the psychic and physical lives of Black people were and are still irrelevant. This inequality and injustice persist to this day. There’s still no leveling of the playing field.

Black people here are born into a caste-like system from which there is no escape. Skin color is permanent. The one drop of “black blood” rule was created to establish and maintain the “purity of whiteness.” Anyone of heritage mixed with Black blood is considered Black. The offspring of a white parent and a Black parent equals one Black child. Thus, we have Barack Obama as the U.S.’s first Black presidential nominee. The white parent’s “blood” and ancestry is historically ignored. Even if a mixed child physically looks white they’re treated as Black—tolerated at best, but not acceptable.

Capitalism by nature is a destructive and dehumanizing social system, dividing labor by class. Adding race to class structure, this system pits the Black working class against backward white workers and a white-dominated corporate power structure. The ruling class has deliberately created, and thus ensured, a permanent underclass by this racial division. The notion of there being different “races” of human beings was constructed to create these social divisions: a them-against-us mentality.

The elections and beyond

Michelle Obama is seen as the stereotypical angry Black woman, in need of an overhaul and of having her image and reputation softened. This past May, Time magazine’s cover asked, “Will Michelle Obama Hurt Obama’s Chance?”

Recently, Michelle Obama was compelled to clarify her statement, saying that she was referring to having pride in the country being so engaged in the political process; that she was proud of her father’s working class achievement and ability to send her and her brother to college. And that her parents feel pride for their hard work and sacrifice. She also graciously handled the ridiculousness surrounding the “controversial” fist bump.

It’s yet to be seen if in November we see a racist white backlash to the nomination of Michelle Obama’s spouse. Many of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s white women supporters stated they are planning to throw their support to the presumptive Republican presidential candidate, John McCain, or stay home. McCain has begun courting them, even though it’s been shown that he is no true friend of the feminist movement.

In addition, racist hate group websites are feverishly alive and well on the issue of Obama’s possible election. It should be remembered that a few years after the ink had dried on the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the present-day Ku Klux Klan began forming, representing the white supremacist backlash.

We’re hearing now that the matter of race is being put aside, as indicated by Obama’s presumptive nomination, that we’re now a post-racial society. Yet there continue to be widespread racial disparities in health care, housing, education and employment—all important areas that determine one’s quality of life.

Does the nomination of Barak Obama or even his election as president translate into the U.S. being beyond race? Or does it reflect something yet unnamed and masked that may be coming down the pike? It’s yet to be seen what it does signify. The real explanation for Obama’s ascension is complex. But as long as there is chronic racism in this country there can be no true democracy, so we must remain vigilant. The struggle continues!

The writer is an International Action Center activist in New York City.



New Yorkers protest racist magazine cover

On July 15, community members and activists gathered in front of the offices of the New Yorker magazine to denounce the offensive, racist depiction of Barack and Michelle Obama on the front cover of the magazine's latest issue. The rally and press conference was organized by State Senator Bill Perkins, pictured speaking to the press. —Report and photo by Sara Flounders

Is it ‘satire’ or racism?

Does “race” still play a major role in the upcoming presidential elections? You bet your life it does. Consider the July 21 cover of the New Yorker magazine that depicts the Obamas as “terrorists” using a multitude of racial stereotypes. Calling it “satire,” editors of this magazine approved a horrendous racist graphic showing the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Barack Obama, with a large nose, dressed in a tunic and sandals, with what is perceived as a Middle Eastern turban on his head.

His spouse, Michelle, is depicted with a large Afro, dressed in fatigues, with a gun over her shoulder. Both

figures are standing in the Oval Office doing a fist bump, alluding to a previous attack on the Obamas by Fox News while they were campaigning in Minnesota last month. On the wall is a picture of Osama Bin Laden, while a U.S. flag is burning in the fireplace.

The Obama campaign released a statement calling the photo “tasteless and offensive.” Regardless of how the New Yorker defends this cover, the underlying message is meant to scare off U.S. citizens, especially if they are white, from voting for Barack Obama as the first Black president in a country that reinforces institutionalized racism and xenophobia daily.

—Monica Moorehead

Reproductive rights under further attack

Continued from page 4

that the First Amendment protects such activity: “The government cannot silence messages simply because they cause discomfort, fear or even anger.”

The court did not mention the 2006 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld a decision by a high school principal in Alaska to punish a student who unfurled a “Bong Hits 4 Jesus” banner outside a school. One wonders if this appellate court would also uphold the right of anti-war and anti-imperialist organizations to drive around schools with photos of torture victims from Abu Ghraib or the U.S. detention camps at Guantánamo.

These appellate court decisions regarding abortion come on the heels of the April 2007 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that outlawed certain types of abortion procedures. That ruling was universally condemned by women’s rights and reproductive rights activists for its demeaning and paternalistic ideas concerning women and women’s role in society. The ruling, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, was a highly reactionary political document that adopted and embraced the language of anti-choice rhetoric and unproven, unscientific notions regarding women and abortion. It gave the green light for rulings like those of the recent appellate

courts. And it will further endanger the right of women to choose abortion that was codified in the court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

The right-wing anti-woman agenda seeks to outlaw all abortions as well as contraception for women. If it succeeds, forced pregnancies and unsafe illegal abortions will take their toll on women’s and children’s lives. Will the future for women be the one envisioned in Atwood’s Republic of Gilead? Or will women fight back to demand full reproductive rights, freedom and justice and an equal role in capitalist society? Better yet, why not overturn this rotten system altogether? □

Canada deports resister

Continued from page 7

It may be the first and the last. A minority government that ignores the will of its people and its Parliament will not be allowed to rule much longer.” Federal elections are expected to take place in Canada this fall. (press release, July 15)

Project Safe Haven, a war resister advocacy group based in Seattle, called on war resister supporters to gather on July 15 at Peace Arch Park on the U.S.-Canada border at Blaine, Wash. There they will be joined by Canadian supporters. □

Africa under attack

U.N. court indicts Sudan leader—thousands protest

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

In a move that can only be interpreted as an act of war, the International Criminal Court on July 14 indicted Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for alleged crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity. The global corporate media, which have never favored Sudan’s present government, have given widespread coverage to the indictments.

On the website for the International Criminal Court it states: “The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent, permanent court that tries persons accused of the most serious crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The ICC is based on a treaty, joined by 106 countries.

“The ICC is a court of last resort. It will not act if a case is investigated or prosecuted by a national judicial system unless the national proceedings are not genuine, for example, if formal proceedings were undertaken solely to shield a person from criminal responsibility. In addition, the ICC only tries those accused of the gravest crimes.”

ICC member countries include those in Latin America, Europe, Canada, Africa and Asia. The United States is not a member of the court because it rejects the right of any other state or international body to exercise legal sanctions and prosecution against its soldiers or political figures.

In response to the prosecutor’s charges, thousands of people in Sudan have gone into the streets to demonstrate against the decision to prosecute President al-Bashir. The indictments imply that a warrant will be issued at some point for his arrest.

Demonstrators in the capital of Khartoum on July 14 chanted, “Down, down, USA!” They also exclaimed, “With our souls, with our blood, we die for Bashir.” The demonstrators also said during the protest: “The ICC does just what the European Union, the United States of

America and Israel tell it to do.” They also delivered a statement to this effect to U.N. offices in the Sudan.

‘Indictment will sabotage peace efforts’

In addition, Sudan has proclaimed that this move against its top governmental officials will inevitably sabotage efforts to reach a lasting peace agreement with rebels based in the western Darfur region of the country. Two senior Sudanese officials told Reuters news agency that they would solicit Chinese, Russian and African support through the U.N. to obstruct the issuing of an arrest warrant for President al-Bashir.

The U.N. Security Council has the power to pass a resolution that suspends an ICC-issued warrant. However, many agree that since al-Bashir has already been mentioned in the indictments, the damage will be done in regard to any potential improvement of relations between Sudan and the Western countries.

On July 12, the African Union said that ICC’s threat to prosecute the head of state of Sudan could jeopardize peace efforts in the Darfur region. A statement issued in the aftermath of a meeting at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia through its Peace and Security Council of the continental organization, composed of all African states “expressed its strong conviction that the search for justice should be pursued in a way that does not impede or jeopardize efforts aimed at promoting lasting peace.”

The AU Peace and Security Council stated that it had been advised of the plans to indict the Sudanese leader on July 12 and “reiterated the AU’s concern with the misuse of indictments against African leaders.”

Also the Peace and Security Council of the AU pointed out that the United Nations Security Council has addressed the issue in a March 2005 resolution which “emphasized the need to promote healing and reconciliation” in the western region of the country.

Sudan has proclaimed that this move against its top governmental officials will inevitably sabotage efforts to reach a lasting peace agreement with rebels based in the western Darfur region of the country.

This action by the ICC, which is based in The Hague, represents the first ever indictment the ICC leveled against a sitting head of state. The International Criminal Tribunal on the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)—a special court that predates the ICC—had indicted Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in 1999 in the midst of U.S.-NATO bombardments of that country.

Other developments surrounding this attempt to prosecute the Sudanese president, saw the Arab League warning on July 12 that the “politicizing” of the ICC had prompted the call for an emergency summit of Arab foreign ministers to discuss these charges against al-Bashir among member countries.

The spokesperson for the Arab League, Hesham Yussif, said to journalists that Secretary-General Amr Mussa was in close discussions with various foreign ministers throughout the Arab world and Africa in regard to this issue.

During 2007, the ICC judges issued warrants for two other Sudanese officials, the minister Ahmed Harun and the militia commander Ali Kushayb. The government has stated emphatically that it will not hand over these nationals to the ICC.

Meanwhile in China, a senior Sudanese official, Mustafa Ismail, who is a senior advisor to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, stated that this close ally had done more to bring peace in Sudan than any other country had.

Ismail said to the Xinhua press agency: “In my opinion, China has played the most positive role in Sudan among countries outside the region. In sharp contrast, some Western countries have been playing up the Darfur issue as a conflict between the Arab and the African groups,

to impose pressure on the Sudanese government for their own interests.”

Ismail continued: “To that effect, a number of media outlets in the West have distorted the role of China in the Darfur issue, while some politicians have threatened to boycott the Beijing Olympics. We should know their tactics.”

Ismail also mentioned that, “China’s achievements in the Sudan peace process stems largely from its pure and transparent motive. China does not have an ulterior motive for being involved in the peace process. It is doing so for peace itself, which has won great trust both from our government and from the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement,” Ismail said, referring to the leading organization in the south of the country that reached a comprehensive peace accord with Khartoum during 2005.

The People’s Republic of China has provided over \$15 million in humanitarian assistance to Sudan. The Sudanese presidential adviser expressed appreciation for the assistance given by the Chinese government including the 10,000 peacekeeping forces deployed in Darfur, which Ismail claims are “doing a great job by providing technology and experience to the United Nations-African Union (UN-AU) mission charged with providing humanitarian aid.”

Ismail, who is a leading official of the ruling National Congress Party, was in China on a five-day, inter-party visit to Beijing at the invitation of the Communist Party of China. He stated that the Chinese government’s involvement “greatly influences the Darfur peace process. We believe the Darfur issue has entered the road to settlement,” Ismail said.

See panafricanews.blogspot.com

International assaults on Zimbabwe foiled

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Russia, China double-veto sanctions

A new round of post-elections destabilization attempts by the Western imperialist countries suffered a monumental defeat when the U.S. and British-sponsored vote to impose additional sanctions against Zimbabwe in the U.N. was double-vetoed by Russia and China on July 11.

In an article published in the July 14 issue of the Zimbabwe Herald, the government thanked various countries for their assistance in preventing the passage of such a hostile resolution by the Security Council. “Deputy Minister of Information and Publicity Bright Matonga hailed China and Russia for vetoing concerted efforts by Britain and the United States to victimize Zimbabwe.” The official also commended Libya, South Africa and Vietnam for “their unreserved support for Zimbabwe.”

“We are grateful to our all-weather friends, particularly China and Russia. We thank them wholeheartedly for their con-

tinued support and for the work they have done before, during and after independence. They continue to support us even during these difficult times,” said Bright. “We are very grateful for their support.”

G8 Summit pressures African leaders to condemn Zimbabwe

At the recently held summit of leading capitalist countries in Japan, the Western nations invited several heads of state from the African continent including Presidents Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa and John Kuffour of Ghana.

The African heads of state questioned the G8 leaders about the delivery of at least \$25 billion that was promised during the 2005 summit in Scotland. This aid would ostensibly have provided assistance to various African states to increase agricultural production, industrial development and tackling various health problems, including the high rates of HIV/AIDS. Despite the questioning, the capitalist states were mainly concerned about forcing the African representatives to condemn the president and government of Zimbabwe.

After the African leaders demonstrat-

ed resistance and reluctance to these attempts to further threaten Zimbabwe, the G8 leaders issued a special resolution on the situation inside the southern African nation.

The resolution on Zimbabwe reads in part: “We express our grave concern about the situation in Zimbabwe. We deplore the fact that the Zimbabwean authorities pressed ahead with the presidential election despite the absence of appropriate conditions for free and fair voting as a result of their systematic violence, obstruction and intimidation.”

This statement refused to acknowledge the work already done by South African President Thabo Mbeki in serving as a mediator between the Zimbabwe government and the pro-Western opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T). Talks resumed between the two Zimbabwean parties, the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front as well as the Western-backed MDC-T, in South Africa during the week of July 7.

Moreover, by avoiding a discussion of the major concerns expressed by the African countries in attendance, the G8

leaders demonstrated the real agenda of the imperialist states. Even though they have targeted Zimbabwe and Sudan (see article this issue) for destabilization and regime change, no mention was made of the continuing wars of aggression by the U.S., Britain and their allies against the peoples of Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia, let alone the growing threats of military action against the nation of Iran by both the U.S. and the state of Israel.

With the deepening economic crisis in the imperialist states, resulting in the increasing loss of jobs, rising energy and food prices, home foreclosures, evictions and the increased levels of political repression against their own populations, the Western nations will continue efforts to exploit and oppress the peoples of the former colonial and semi-colonial regions.

The declining living standards in the oppressed nations provide opportunities for the workers and the oppressed inside the capitalist states to engage in solidarity actions, which will mutually benefit the masses in various regions of the world. □



Why Workers World is endorsing Cynthia McKinney for president

Continued from page 1

war, the struggle to impeach Bush, as well as her struggle to expose the government’s role in the displacement of survivors of Hurricane Katrina, she was branded too Black and too radical to walk the halls of Congress. She was pushed out, not once but twice, by the leadership of the Democratic Party. Last year, McKinney severed her ties to that party.

On July 12, McKinney and her running mate, activist Rosa Clemente, won the Green Party’s nomination to run for president and vice-president, respectively. The Green Party’s nomination will put McKinney on the ballot in about 20 states, which is no small thing in the U.S. where the ruling class has made it very hard for any electoral formation independent of, and even slightly to the left of, the two major ruling-class parties to get ballot status. The Green Party is not the reason why we are supporting McKinney.

McKinney’s “Power to the People Campaign” gets most of its program from the draft program of the still-in-formation Reconstruction Party. Activists in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, together with supporters nationwide, have been developing a Reconstruction Party as a mass political vehicle to fight for the reconstruction of the Gulf and justice for Katrina survivors.

The draft program of the Reconstruction Party is inspired by the program of the original Black Panther Party. The Reconstruction Party draft program calls for, among other things: self-determination for Black people, the relocation of displaced survivors of Katrina back to the Gulf, jobs, healthcare and housing, reparations for Black people, an end to racist terror and political repression, an end to the prison-industrial complex and an end to the war.

McKinney’s campaign is laying the foundation for a radical coalition of Black, Latin@, Asian and Indigenous activists, trade unionists, progressives and revolutionaries. This is important and timely.

We have no illusions regarding the difficulty that McKinney’s campaign will face, because this presidential election is like none other before it.

The economic crisis and prospects for class struggle

Barack Obama is the first Black person to be the nominee of a ruling-class party, and he could be the first Black president of the U.S. Many are understandably excited about Obama’s candidacy, especially Black people.

No matter how far Obama moves to the right, most likely Black people are going to come out in unprecedented numbers in November in the hopes of achieving something that very few thought possible a year ago. Apart from Black voters, many others will vote for Obama in November for reasons that are historically progressive. And some will not vote for Obama because of his name,

because they think he’s Muslim and because he’s Black.

Race, or what some of us call the national question, is central to this year’s election.

But then there is the negative side to this contradictory development. Should Obama win the election (a prospect that shouldn’t be considered certain), the U.S. imperialist ruling class will have a gifted Black politician to help them save their troubled empire. An Obama presidency as the face of an imperialist state will not change anything fundamental, but on the surface it will mark a change, a new situation.

The U.S. capitalist class desperately needs to try something new to help them with their overlapping crises of deepening economic turmoil and imperialist war. In the board rooms of Wall Street, some are, no doubt, hoping that someone like Obama can delay or derail an uprising against widespread depression-level social conditions, or at least be the scapegoat for the unbearable misery that the ruling class has in store for workers.

The Obama phenomenon is more than anything else a sign that the period of political reaction, which has held the working class back and weakened revolutionary movements, organizations and their revolutionary ideas, is coming to an end.

No matter who wins the election, the magnitude of the spiraling crisis of world imperialism, centered here in the U.S., is going to challenge all the forces who share an anti-imperialist, working-class-centered socialist orientation to put aside narrow views, sectarian habits and small differences that have festered during a long and demoralizing period of world reaction.

The material conditions for resurgence of the working class may sooner than later reach levels not seen in this country since the 1930s. In order for the working-class movement to grow politically and organizationally, it will take time, experience in the class struggle, and the assistance of conscious political forces who are dedicated to reviving the struggle.

What is required of all of us who consider ourselves among the dedicated? At a minimum it is a higher level of clarity, seriousness, confidence, solidarity and coalition building.

McKinney’s campaign is Black-led, anti-imperialist, working-class-centered and has a multinational radical base with the potential of unlimited growth.

Of course, we believe that the struggle should not be confined to the electoral arena, especially as the capitalist ruling class completely dominates the electoral process. We must be in the streets fighting the war, fighting foreclosures and evictions, fighting in solidarity with immigrant workers, etc. However, Workers World believes that supporting the McKinney campaign is a step forward towards the path that the movement needs to take. □

Message to readers

Confronting the corporate media

From the editors of Workers World

Last month we published an article detailing how Workers World articles are being read, translated if necessary and reproduced all around the world by dozens of publications, Web site managers and bloggers hungry for news from U.S.-based revolutionary media that combats the lies churned out by the corporate monopoly media machine. This article will report some reactions and update that report.

We are not disinterested reporters. That so many people in so many places want to read, translate and publish what we have written tells us we are succeeding—up to a point. If we can encourage others to help promote these articles and analyses, we can get beyond that point.

We know ours is a minority opinion within the United States. Now. We are equally sure we speak to the needs and interests of the vast majority of workers and oppressed people.

The most-read and -discussed recent article has likely been Larry Holmes’ analysis of the Barack Obama candidacy. Holmes explains, without flinching, both sides of the contradictory Obama phenomenon. His writings have been reproduced on U.S.-based blogs and have opened online discussions. They have also been translated for the prestigious Portuguese magazine, Seara Nova. The newspaper of the Workers Party of Belgium (ptb.be) interviewed Holmes for a major in-depth article on Obama, along with Mick Kelly from the Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Abayomi Azikiwe’s articles analyzing the U.S.-British attacks against Zimbabwe’s government have confronted ruling class opinion head-on. The monopoly corporate media have been so overwhelming in their lies that even progressive and/or social-democratic media have wavered or succumbed to the pressure by insulting Zimbabwe’s government and President Robert Mugabe.

Azikiwe’s articles provide relief from this drivel, and have been emailed widely from the workers.org site. Because of Azikiwe’s reputation as editor of the Pan African Newswire (panafricannews.blogspot.com), many sites have reproduced his articles, including edstrong.blog-city.com, indymedia.org.uk, blackstarnews.com and assatashakur.org.

Some WW analyses lead to action. For example, Sara Flounders’ article, “U.S. behind Israel’s war threats on Iran,” has helped impel the mobilization for protests next Aug. 2 called by the stopwaroniran.org site. This article has not only been published on many U.S. sites, but was translated into Portuguese for the resistir.info site and into French for michelcollon.info and ptb.be.

Our last report got a response from the editors of the Workers Action newspaper in the Ukraine, letting us know they had translated six of our articles in June into Russian for publication on their site, proletar.org.ua. The articles included two by Jaimeson Champion on economic questions, part one of David Hoskins’ series on health

care, Caleb Maupin on Che Guevara and managing editor LeiLani Dowell’s article on Midwest flooding. All four authors are members of FIST, a youth organization. The sixth article was G. Dunkel’s on inter-imperialist rivalry in Africa.

Walter Lippmann, who sends out articles related to revolutionary Cuba to an extensive mailing list, distributed and praised Dolores Cox’s open letter to Barack Obama—after the candidate’s appearance before the Miami counterrevolutionaries—for its approach in reaching a broad audience. He also lauded a podcast talk by Deirdre Griswold on the earthquake in China for its attention to factual detail.

Another open letter, the one that Larry Hales wrote to Branford Marsalis urging him not to perform in Israel, was emailed extensively and picked up by www.odsg.org. Berta Joubert-Ceci’s article on Colombia and the so-called rescue of Ingrid Betancourt appeared on the workers.org site July 14 and reappeared later that day on plurmentalcchaket.blogspot.com, a Mexican site.

It helps to be on time and on target. Tobias Grace, editor of Out in Jersey magazine—“New Jersey’s largest queer publication”—emailed us that it was only by picking up a WW at the New York Pride Parade that the magazine staff learned of the court victory of two of the Jersey 4 lesbian political prisoners. Out in Jersey quoted LeiLani Dowell’s article extensively in their next edition (outinjersey.net), with WW’s permission and solidarity.

A Google search found that other WW news articles have shown up on sites with specific interests, such as a particular political prisoner or a labor organization. Sites we found are Amerikanka.net, palestinehinktank.com, bintjbeil.com, war-resisters.blogspot.com, queerswithout-borders.com, newstrust.net, opednews.com, nwo101.com, Itsabouttime.com, the-peoples-forum.com, soldiersofsolidarity.com, abpnoticias.com, and tongilkorea.net. The San Francisco Bay View also picked up a WW article.

We also acknowledge axisoflogic.com, The New Worker in Britain and the Pan African News Wire, which regularly republish WW articles, and Michel Mounayer in Damascus, who for years has translated many WW articles on the Middle East for republication in The Ba’ath and other Syrian newspapers.

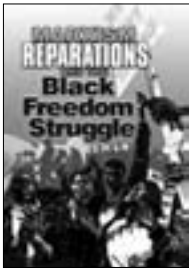
A future report to readers will discuss Mundo Obrero, our Spanish-language edition. If you can report on other sites that use WW articles or have ideas on how to reach out, write to jcat@workers.org. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

The following sections present an outline of the contents beginning with the Introduction:

- Black liberation & the working-class struggle
- The material basis for reparations in the U.S.
- Brief overview of racist oppression & heroic resistance
- What Hurricane Katrina exposed to the world
- Africa: A battleground against colonialism and for sovereignty
- Justice for the Caribbean
- A salute to women revolutionaries
- Why fight-back is inevitable
- Black labor and class solidarity

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Cynthia McKinney speaks on ‘free trade’ in Mexico

The following excerpts are from a recent talk made by Cynthia McKinney, Green Party presidential candidate in the United States. The statement was sent out on June 27th by the International Liaison Committee of Workers & Peoples (ILC) based in San Francisco. Go to www.organicconsumers.org to read the statement in its entirety.

In early April 2008, I participated in the Second Continental Workers’ Conference in Mexico City. I was honored to have been a keynote speaker at the conference’s opening night rally at the hall of the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME).

I learned that a powerful united front now exists in Mexico against the NAFTA-inspired privatizations that will result in the theft of Mexico’s patrimony in natural resources.

The Mexican Congress was shut down by the real opposition that they have in Mexico. The PEMEX Privatization bill was supposed to have passed by now. Mexico’s Congress adjourned without passing it. Score one for the people.

One of the leading papers in Mexico City had a photo of the Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Congress with an unfurled banner covering the Speaker’s Rostrum, proclaiming the Chamber “Closed.” The banner was hung by elected members of the Mexican Congress who constitute the Frente Amplio Progresista that has dared to draw a line in the sand against U.S.-inspired legislation introduced to allow foreign corporate ownership of PEMEX, Mexico’s state-owned oil company.

I wrote my Master’s thesis on the “Idea of Nation.” And to see the women, in their

T-shirts and kerchiefs, so committed to their country, their nation, their identity. To them, that’s Mexico’s oil, natural gas, electricity, land and water, and it ought to be used by the Mexican people first and foremost for their own national development. But, sadly, it’s the public policy emanating from Washington, D.C., that threatens that.

According to Greg Palast, the U.S. corporation involved in the Mexican move was none other than that now infamous Georgia-based company: Choicepoint. We know that in Florida, Choicepoint, then doing business as DataBase Technologies, constructed an illegal convicted felons list of 94,000 names, many of whom were neither convicted nor felons. But if your name appeared on that list, you were stopped from voting. Greg Palast tells us that for most of the names on that list, their only crime was “Voting While Black.”

Under a special “counter-terrorism” contract, the U.S. FBI obtained Mexican and Venezuelan voter files through Choicepoint of all the countries that have progressive presidents. Many Mexicans went to the polls to vote for their President, only to find that their names had been scrubbed from the voter list, and they were not allowed to vote. So now, not only in the United States, but in Mexico, too, one can show up to vote and not be sure that that vote was counted, or worse, one can show up duly registered to vote and not even be allowed to vote.

I guess this is the way we allow our country to now export democracy.

Unlike in the United States in 2000, Mexico City was shut down for five months in 2006 when Lopez Obrador, Mexico’s Al Gore, refused to concede and, instead,

formed a shadow government.

The issue in the 2006 Mexican election was privatization of Mexico’s oil. Teachers on strike at the same time as the presidential elections in Oaxaca, one of the poorest states in Mexico, began their political movement as a call for increased teacher salaries and against privatization of schools. Tens of thousands of citizens joined them and took over the central city of that state. Today, after Mexico has added teachers and those who support teachers to its growing ranks of “political prisoners,” teachers are still protesting their conditions and the reprisals taken against them for striking, and now the teachers’ union is a committed part of the national mobilization against privatization of PEMEX.

I was invited to participate in the Second Continental Workers Conference. The first meeting was held in La Paz, Bolivia. And so people from all over Mexico and eight different countries told of their struggles, their hopes, their ideals, their values, their patriotism, their desire for peace/no more war.

Representatives from Chiapas, another one of Mexico’s poorest states, told us of the indigenous struggle for land and self-determination, the low-intensity warfare waged against them, and how now they, too, count themselves a part of the national mobilization against PEMEX privatization.

While I was there, mine workers had taken over the mines, and so could only send a handful of inspiring representatives. They are pressing for the right to unionize, denied to them by the government. And the mine workers are part of the solid front forming in Mexico to protect this powerful idea of nation.

Today’s front page of La Jornada says that the women, who marched 10,000 strong on the day that I was there, have renewed their protests and civil disobedience. The threat of violence and bloodshed is very real.

Now, why should this massive social,

political and economic upheaval in Mexico, aside from its human rights implications, be important to us up here in the United States?

Because the sad truth of the matter is that, in many respects, it is our military and economic policies that are causing it. Of course, I recognize that all the way back to the practice of Manifest Destiny and the declaration of the Monroe Doctrine, U.S. policy decisions have at times sent shock waves to places outside our borders. You could say that the modern version of that is NAFTA.

In 1993, the Democratic majority in the United States Congress supported then-President Bill Clinton’s push for passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The stated purpose of the legislation was to remove barriers to trade and investment that existed in North America. The objective was to lift all boats in Canada, the United States, and Mexico through trade and investment. But the result has been the stripping away and transfer of Mexico’s patrimony in terms of its natural and human resources. And the Mexican people are taking a stand against it. They are taking the same stand that the little people in Haiti, Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Argentina have taken.

I happened to vote against NAFTA, and I’m glad for that. Imagine if we in the United States were as certain of the possibility of peaceful change through the vote as were the people of Haiti, Mexico—despite having their election stolen from them—Venezuela and the rest. Then we would vote members of Congress out of office who support Plan Colombia. We would vote members of Congress out of office who support Plan Mexico—which, like its Colombian counterpart, is the military answer to the cry of the people for dignity, self-determination and that idea of patria.

Cynthia McKinney is a former six-term member of the U.S. Congress from the state of Georgia.

Two Haitian militants killed in mob attack

By Brenda Ryan

A mob killed two leading militants of Haiti’s National Popular Party, whose Creole acronym is PPN, outside the town of St. Raphael on June 26. The two men, Prad Rémy Jean Vernet and Adriene Michel, were also journalists with PPN’s Haiti Progrès newspaper. Vernet, known as Ped, was the administrator of the publication, and Michel was the paper’s northern correspondent.

The mob had been in pursuit of six thieves who had robbed a small cooperative bank in St. Raphael of about \$1,800. The mob followed the thieves into the mountains where they came upon Vernet and Michel.

“With machetes, the mob killed Ped on the spot but led Adrien to town and turned him over to the police,” Kim Ives reported in the July 9 issue of Haiti Liberté. A judge ordered Michel to be jailed in the nearby town of Grande Riviere du Nord and sent back to St. Raphael for trial on June 30. However, Ives reported that over the weekend Michel died in Cap Haitien’s Justinien Hospital and that the cause of

death was unknown.

“What group of zenglendos [thieves] organized the attack on the credit union?” PPN’s assistant Secretary General Georges Honorat asked in a press release. “Who accused these two militants of being a part of a zenglendo team causing them to be lynched on the spot? These are the questions that must be clarified.”

The Associated Press quoted a U.N. police spokesman who said witnesses reported that the thieves were wearing Haitian National Police uniforms when they robbed the bank.

PPN said Vernet and Michel had been in St. Raphael to mobilize support for the party’s candidates in upcoming Senate elections. Ives noted that according to local reports, police are looking for other PPN members in the area.

The National Popular Party is a national, revolutionary, anti-imperialist party based in the peasantry. It evolved out of the mass movement known as the National Popular Assembly. The PPN is fighting for Haiti’s national independence and against imperialist domination. □



WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

‘Free the Cuban Five,’ chant the travel ban challengers of the 39th Venceremos (We Shall Overcome) Brigade, the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange and the African Awareness Association on July 14 in Buffalo, N.Y.

Youth defy U.S. blockade of Cuba

Chanting, shouting and raising their fists in triumph, the travel ban challengers of the 39th Venceremos Brigade, the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange and the African Awareness Association marched across the Peace Bridge from Fort Erie, Ontario, into Buffalo, N.Y., in open defiance of the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

They returned to the U.S. on the same morning that Pastors for Peace travel challengers came back from Cuba across the border from Mexico into Texas.

A spokesperson for the Venceremos Brigade pointed out that because of the determination of travel challengers, groups organizing the challenges and people in the streets asserting the right to

see socialist Cuba for themselves, the government has backed off. For the moment, he said, an end to individual enforcement of the travel ban has been won.

After a two-week work and study program in Cuba, the challengers came back bursting with determination to heighten the call for freedom for the Cuban Five, political prisoners serving long prison terms in the U.S. for trying to prevent terrorist acts against Cuba committed by right-wing Cuban exile organizations based in Florida.

While the group was in Cuba, 56 members of Canada’s parliament signed a letter demanding justice for the Cuban Five.

—Report and photo by Ellie Dorritie

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Un retroceso en el Proceso de Paz ¿Qué pasó realmente en Colombia?

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Colombia estuvo en los titulares alrededor del mundo el 2 de Julio como nunca antes. Nos enteramos que la ex candidata a la Presidencia de Colombia, Ingrid Betancourt, había sido liberada de un grupo guerrillero marxista, junto con tres estadounidenses contratistas del Pentágono —Tom Howes, Marc Gonsalves y Keith Stansell— y 11 miembros del Ejército y la Policía de Colombia.

Habían sido capturad@s por las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC-EP) en distintas ocasiones, en un esfuerzo por presionar al gobierno para llevar a cabo una negociación política que termine con el conflicto colombiano, que lleva ya 60 años. Las FARC habían propuesto intercambiar a varios cientos de retenid@s por ellos, por 500 de sus miembr@s encarcelados en prisiones colombianas (y tres en cárceles federales en los EEUU).

Más importante aún, la solución negociada incluiría un acuerdo en el que las FARC se reunirían con el Gobierno Colombiano para buscar avenidas para una paz verdadera, con justicia económica y social para la mayoría del pueblo colombiano, que vive en la pobreza.

Libertad en tres versiones

Sin embargo, los titulares fueron una distorsión de la realidad, llevada a cabo por el Gobierno Colombiano, el cual tiene una amplia experiencia en dar a conocer medias verdades y falsas propagandas. Bautizó la acción “Operación Jaque”.

De acuerdo con el Ministro de Defensa Juan Manuel Santos, l@s 15 retenid@s por las FARC fueron entregad@s a efectivos militares que se hicieron pasar por una “misión humanitaria”. El Gobierno enfatizó que fue una operación pacífica en la que ninguno de los dos bandos disparó un sólo tiro. Su explicación fue que era una operación encubierta llevada a cabo “infiltrando altos niveles de las FARC” y haciéndoles creer que l@s prisioner@s iban a reunirse con Alfonso Cano, el actual líder de las FARC, quien supuestamente había enviado el helicóptero para recogerles.

Con esta historia, presentaron a la insurgencia armada como un grupo en desconcierto, después de las recientes muertes de tres de los miembros de su Secretariado: Raúl Reyes e Iván Ríos (quienes murieron en operaciones militares), y Manuel Marulanda, fundador de las FARC, quien murió por causas naturales.

La elogiaron como una operación perfecta que marca el fin del grupo guerrillero.

Mientras Santos enfatizaba que fue una operación 100% colombiana, sin la participación de gobiernos u organizaciones extranjeras, la portavoz de la Casa Blanca, Dana Perino declaró el 3 de julio que fue “concebida por los colombianos y ejecutada por los colombianos, con nuestro completo apoyo”. El Embajador de EEUU en Colombia, William Brownfield, habló con CNN acerca del “apoyo técnico” que los EEUU brindaron en la operación.

¿Cuál fue este “apoyo”? MSNBC reportó el 3 de julio que “el jueves, el Coronel William Costello, portavoz del Comando Sur de los EEUU, declaró que el Comando hizo 3600 vuelos de inteligencia, vigilancia y reconocimiento, producto de 175 pis-

tas de inteligencia, y gastó \$250 millones en el intento”.

Luego citó funcionarios de EEUU quienes hablaron “con la condición de mantener su anonimato porque no estaban autorizados a hablar oficialmente y la Administración Bush estaba decidida a darle todo el crédito a los colombianos”. Estas fuentes dijeron, de acuerdo con MSNBC, que “el Comando de Operaciones Especiales de los EEUU ayudó con la vigilancia en el último año, que localizó a los retenidos, usando satélites, reconocimiento aéreo y terrestre, y que los había rastreado desde entonces”.

Una segunda versión de los eventos viene de Francia.

La página francesa de noticias por Internet MediaPart y la Radio Suisse Romande, reportaron por separado que la operación no fue un rescate sino más bien una “transacción por 20 millones de dólares” y que el Gobierno Colombiano pagó ese monto (proporcionado por los EEUU) para la liberación de los tres contratistas del Pentágono.

Supuestamente, negociaciones secretas se llevaron a cabo mediante la esposa de uno de los hombres encargados de vigilar a Betancourt. Esta mujer habría sido capturada por el Ejército Colombiano y forzada a hacer cambiar de bando a su esposo, y a aceptar un soborno. No hace falta decir que el Gobierno Colombiano rechaza vehementemente esta versión, pero admitió que paga por recibir información.

Dos Enviados Especiales europeos, el diplomático francés Noel Sáez y su contraparte suizo Jean Pierre Gontard, estaban en Colombia en ese momento. Ellos habían solicitado permiso al Gobierno Colombiano para profundizar las negociaciones con las FARC para obtener la liberación de Betancourt (quien tiene ciudadanía colombiana y francesa) y de los demás. El Gobierno Colombiano les concedió ese permiso y se comprometió a colaborar con este intento, el cual era ampliamente conocido (el mismo Gobierno lo había divulgado previamente). También se reportó en Francia que ambos ya se habían comunicado con la cúpula de las FARC.

Narciso Isa Conde, un líder izquierdista dominicano, ha presentado una tercera versión de los hechos. Isa Conde es miembro del grupo “Coordinadora Continental Bolivariana”, y tiene autoridad para hablar sobre el tema, ya que participó en previas negociaciones para la liberación de Betancourt. En un artículo ampliamente divulgado escrito el 3 de julio y titulado “No hubo tal rescate”, escribe que la operación fue en verdad “una iniciativa robada a las FARC”.

Isa Conde explicaba que las FARC estaban a punto de liberar a los 15 al equipo franco-suizo, por lo que tenían que ser llevados a un solo punto desde tres diferentes partes de la selva. Los retenidos iban a ser transportados en helicópteros civiles a un lugar donde se reunirían con el liderazgo de las FARC en una ceremonia para entregarlos a los europeos.

Sin embargo, el Ejército Colombiano, con la ayuda de la vigilancia de los EEUU, localizó los helicópteros y sus tripulantes fueron reemplazados por pilotos militares disfrazados como miembros de las FARC (usando camisetas del Ché), quienes

mantuvieron el montaje hasta que tod@s l@s retenid@s estuvieran dentro de los helicópteros.

Esto ciertamente explicaría por qué el resto de los guerrilleros entregaron a l@s retenid@s sin hacer un solo disparo.

El papel de Israel

Varios reportes comentaron acerca de lo “efectiva” y “libre de incidencias” que fue la operación. Ingrid Betancourt, al llegar a Francia, habló de “los israelitas” y su “fama que tienen ellos de esos comandos operativos tan extraordinarios, de pronto esos pueden asemejarse al golpe que se dio hoy”.

De hecho, Israel es parte del Plan Colombia, la estrategia de los EEUU para controlar Colombia. Hay amplia documentación de cómo los Servicios Secretos Israelíes Mossad y Shin Beth han brindado asistencia al gobierno de Uribe en territorio colombiano. El diario israelí Maariv reportó en 2007 que el General Israel Ziv, quien había comandado las fuerzas israelíes en Gaza, fue consultor de “seguridad” para el Gobierno Colombiano.

De acuerdo con un reciente reportaje en TeleSur, el Ministro de Defensa Colombiano Santos viajó a Israel en febrero de 2008, para reunirse con la cúpula de Mossad (equivalente israelí de la CIA). Durante el mismo viaje, fue a los EEUU para reunirse con el Secretario de Defensa Robert Gates, quien había sido Director de la CIA con anterioridad.

El Beneficiario: ¡Uribe!

Algo está claro como el agua. La persona quien más se ha beneficiado de esta operación, es el mismo Presidente Álvaro Uribe.

Hasta el cuello en escándalos de corrupción y parapolítica, necesitaba una cortina de humo. Con la ayuda de los medios capitalistas de todo el mundo, pero en particular de los medios oligarcas colombianos, la Administración de Uribe ha montado una campaña para presentarlo como un héroe y el más grande defensor de la paz. Sin embargo, hasta sus más cercanos aliados en el gobierno están siendo implicados en masacres y otros crímenes perpetrados por paramilitares. Muchos de ellos incluso han sido condenados a prisión y están cumpliendo sus sentencias.

Realmente necesitaba esto, y los EEUU se lo dieron.

Su reelección en 2006 ha sido declarada ilegal por la Corte Suprema de Justicia Colombiana porque ofreció puestos políticos y favores a una congresista quien dio el voto crítico aprobando su reelección, la cual tenía una prohibición constitucional. A pesar de eso, Uribe ahora está proponiendo un referéndum para cambiar la Constitución para que pueda optar por un tercer término en 2010.

Su Jefe del Ejército, General Mario Montoya, quien recibiera una medalla del Ejército de los EEUU, fue implicado en la creación de una unidad terrorista clandestina dentro del Ejército Colombiano. Esta “Alianza Americana Anticomunista” atacó, asesinó, y secuestró activistas de izquierda. Montoya tiene un largo historial criminal, incluso cuando lideró la “Fuerza de Tarea Conjunta del Sur” entre 1999-2001, financiada por los EEUU.

Las acciones llevadas a cabo por Uribe

en el pasado, en relación a otros retenidos por las FARC, no han mostrado intención de obtener su libertad. Después de que las FARC liberaron unilateralmente a siete prisioner@s a fines del año pasado, Uribe bombardeó un campamento de las FARC en Ecuador, donde Raúl Reyes estaba preparando la liberación de Ingrid Betancourt, junto con el Gobierno Ecuatoriano. Este bombardeo, llevado a cabo con asistencia técnica de EEUU, mató a Reyes y a otras 23 personas, incluyendo a un ecuatoriano y a cuatro estudiantes mexicanos.

La madre de Betancourt, Yolanda Pulecio, declaró en ese momento: “ruego que Uribe no encuentre a mi hija” porque podría “ordenar operaciones militares que podrían matarla y luego justificar la guerra diciendo que la guerrilla la mató”.

La tragedia humanitaria en Colombia empeora

En este año ya son 30 los líderes sindicales asesinados. Los paramilitares que Uribe dice están “desmovilizados” simplemente han cambiando su nombre de “Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC)” a “Las Águilas Negras”. Continúan sembrando el terror a lo largo del país, con completa impunidad.

La situación actual en Colombia es desesperada para el movimiento progresista, el cual valientemente continúa protestando e intentando construir alternativas de paz y justicia frente a la represión criminal por parte del Estado y a la horrible violencia de las fuerzas paramilitares.

La pobreza continúa y aumenta; la privatización de servicios esenciales impide que las mayorías tengan acceso a la educación y atención de la salud. Millones de niños y niñas deben trabajar para poder sobrevivir. Las comunidades campesinas, indígenas, y afrocolombianas continúan siendo desplazadas. Líderes progresistas continúan siendo víctimas de asesinatos y desapariciones.

Mientras estas condiciones existan, el movimiento guerrillero también existirá.

Necesidad de solidaridad internacional

No es sorprendente que l@s retenid@s por las FARC-EP fueran “liberados” el mismo día en que el Candidato Presidencial John McCain visitara Colombia para reafirmar a Uribe su apoyo al Tratado de Libre Comercio, actualmente paralizado en el Congreso de los EEUU. También fue un día después de que la infame Cuarta Flota de la Armada de los EEUU iniciara su merodeo en las aguas del Caribe y de América Latina.

El movimiento progresista en los EEUU tiene una enorme deuda con los pueblos al sur del Río Grande. Wall Street y Washington son la amenaza más grande para la estabilidad de la región y para el desarrollo de los procesos progresistas que están ocurriendo allá.

Sería un enorme retroceso para las fuerzas progresistas y revolucionarias del mundo que este brutal gobierno que le hace el trabajo sucio al imperialismo estadounidense, pudiera enraizarse en Colombia, y amenazar a la Revolución Bolivariana de Venezuela, a Bolivia y a Ecuador. Es extremadamente importante dar muestras concretas de solidaridad con el luchador pueblo colombiano que está deteniendo la mano de una dictadura fascista. □